

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Travel in Communist China	DATE DISTR.	5 July 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. In December 1953 the same regulations for travel by train or bus were in effect in Communist China. There was very little private travel by automobiles except for official purposes. 25X1
2. Before beginning any journey, the traveler was required to register with the Public Security branch station having jurisdiction over the area of his residence. No record of this registration was given the traveler. With the exception of former landlords, former members of secret societies, and former members of the Kuomintang or Kuomintang-sponsored organizations, all who registered were permitted to travel without question. No authorization for travel from any government or non-government agency was required when purchasing railroad tickets.
3. Railroad tickets were most commonly purchased in railroad stations prior to boarding trains. In large cities, tickets might also be purchased at booking offices. There were six such booking offices in Peking, three in Tsinan, Shantung, and ten in Shanghai. When passengers boarded trains at points where there were no stations, they could purchase tickets aboard the train; however, where tickets were available, they had to be purchased in advance.
4. The price of tickets was the same for government officials or for private citizens. Military personnel were an exception, since they paid half-fare.
5. With the exception of the movement of troops, there were no priorities given to individuals or to classes. Separate waiting rooms were provided for personnel of the armed forces, and they were allowed to board trains twenty or thirty minutes before civilian passengers.

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- 2 -

6. Personal documents of the passengers were not checked at any time. After the train was under way, a ticket collector and a railroad guard checked tickets.
7. Passenger baggage was not checked or inspected when passengers boarded trains.
8. Body inspections were not made at any time.
9. Travel by freight train was not a customary procedure and was not permitted except for shippers traveling with cargo. When shippers on their designates wanted to accompany cargo to a destination, prior authorization to do so had to be obtained from the railroad at the time of manifesting the cargo.
10. There were no hoboes on Chinese Communist railroads.²
11. Railroad police and public security troops rode freight trains. Generally speaking, they were conscientious and did not accept bribes.
12. Gasoline was a state monopoly in Communist China. Persons wishing to purchase gasoline for use in either private or public transportation were required to make prior application for a permit at the China Petroleum Company or its authorized agents.

1. Comment. This information is presumed to concern only travel within China.
2. Comment. Railroad hoboes formerly were common within China. The severity of control by the railroad police has driven them out of existence.

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